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many valuable researches have been published, but these have not been referred to in any way in the work under review. When the French version of *Das Antlitz der Erde* was prepared, the references to important literature were brought up to date, with annotations, greatly enhancing the usefulness of the book. The English translation would have been much more acceptable and valuable had a similar plan been followed; had the meagre illustrations of the original been supplemented, as in the French edition, by some of the many that are available, and had the volume been supplied with an index. Both the German and the French editions lack indexes, however; but Americans, at any rate, dislike to hunt for particular items in such a vast storehouse of facts while waiting for years for the last volume of a series to appear with its general index. The English edition is good in that it has followed the French in putting the notes at the bottom of the pages to which they refer, instead of keeping them together at the end of the chapter, as in the original.

This English edition of Suess is a most welcome addition to the library not only of the geologist, but also of the general student of nature who desires to get a clear, broad conception of the surface of the earth. E. O. H.

A Home Geography of New York City. By **Gustave Straubenmüller**, District Superintendent of Schools, New York City. 12mo. Boston, Ginn & Co., (1905). (Price, 60 cents.)

This admirable text-book is planned to be given to children for the first book studied in geography. It gives the pupils of the Metropolis a clear, concise, yet comprehensive view of the great city in which they live. Every fact in the book should be known by every resident of the city, and these facts are presented so simply and logically that young children will probably be able to grasp and assimilate the material presented to them.

The book marks advance in the teaching of geography. The maps first studied are not those of the hemispheres, of which children know absolutely nothing, but of the school-room and the school-grounds, the parks, the city streets, with which they are more or less familiar. It is astonishing to find how little even high-school pupils know in regard to the geography of their own cities. There are many children living in New York City who have never seen the elevated railroad or a subway station. Many of these children will spend their lives within the limits of New York; and if this book is properly taught, it will undoubtedly be a valuable part of their public-school education.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with Local Geography, and the second part gives Stories of Local History. The stories are so arranged as to lead the child through the paths of historical changes in as logical a manner as possible.

The book opens with exercises on the construction and reading of maps. Beginning with the map of the desk at which the pupil sits, this exercise in scale and proportion is developed through the school-room, the school-house, the school-grounds, the street, the nearest park or square, and finally leads to the reading of maps of various parts of the city. Maps of the city showing relief, physical features, political divisions, the harbor, etc., are given. Bird's-eye views are made a prominent feature, the author regarding them as most helpful devices.

The questions of transportation, manufactures, homes of the people, immigration, ferries, parks, museums, schools, churches, and libraries are considered and briefly discussed. The city government is taken up under the various heads: The

Mayor, the Borough, President, Board of Aldermen, Finance Department, Police Department, Fire Department, etc.

The historical portion of the book begins with the Indian boy and girl as they lived on the island of Manhattan at the time of the coming of the white man. Henry Hudson, Peter Stuyvesant, Nathan Hale, Alexander Hamilton, Robert Fulton, Samuel F. B. Morse, and Peter Cooper are considered with reference to the important work which each accomplished in the development of the city.

The author is to be congratulated upon having prepared a work fitted not only for the pupils of New York but for those of other places; for the plan may be used by teachers in any city. When pupils have thoroughly studied the geography of their home surroundings they will be better prepared to take up the study of other parts of the world.

It would seem wise to add a little more about the plants and animals to be seen in the parks, as subjects of special interest to children, and to include more exercises—that is, definite things to be done by the pupils. There are too few explicit statements in the text for the children, giving some short piece of work to be accomplished at some given time.

F. P. G.

The Congo. A Report of the Commission of Enquiry appointed by the Congo Free State Government. iv and 171 pp. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1906.

This is a careful translation of the Report of the Commission which was appointed to ascertain if the natives in the Congo Free State had been subjected to ill-treatment by private individuals or by State agents, and to make suggestions as to methods of suppressing evils and promoting the welfare of the inhabitants. The Commission says that every possible facility and co-operation was extended to it during the four months of its investigations between Oct. 23, 1904, and Feb. 21, 1905. The conclusions reached and the suggestions submitted to the Congo Government have been briefly described in the press; but no paraphrase can take the place of the Report itself, which in several respects is very notable. The light it throws on the alleged Congo atrocities and the present condition of that territory, its value as a contribution to the literature of colonial government, and its acute and practical suggestions for the betterment of affairs which may have wider application than for the Congo alone, will make this little book a necessity in many libraries. It may be mentioned that the suggestions of the Commission are to be carried out, and that King Leopold appointed a committee to report on the best means of making them effective.

Senga Handbook. A Short Introduction to the Senga Dialect as Spoken on the Lower Luangwa, North-Eastern Rhodesia. By A. C. Madan. 100 pp. The Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1905. (Price, 2s. 6d.)

The Senga are a Bantu people, about 50,000 in number, living partly in British and partly in Portuguese territory on the lower Luangwa river, to the west of Lake Nyassa. This little book deals entirely with the Bantu forms and words used by that part of the tribe living in British territory.

Swahili (Zanzibar) Grammar. By A. C. Madan. 62 pp. The Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1905. (Price, 1s.)

Ki-Swahili is the *lingua-franca* of tropical East Africa, and Dr. Krapf and Bishop Steere years ago made the Swahili grammar accessible to all students.